

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 7, 1998

H.R. 4660

A bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to provide rewards for information leading to the arrest or conviction of any individual for the commission of an act, or conspiracy to commit an act, of international terrorism, narcotics-related offenses, or for serious violations of international humanitarian law relating to the former Yugoslavia, and for other purposes

As ordered reported by the House Committee on International Relations on October 2. 1998

H.R. 4660 would modify the State Department's program of rewards, institute a new reward for information about persons indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and prohibit the issuance of defense export licenses to certain persons. CBO estimates that the bill would lead to an increase in discretionary spending of \$5 million in 1999 and \$8 million over the 1999-2003 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. Because the bill would affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but CBO estimates that such effects would be negligible.

Under current law, the State Department can provide rewards of up to \$2 million for information about certain acts. The bill would increase that maximum to \$5 million and increase the total authorization of appropriations for paying rewards by \$5 million. In addition, H.R. 4660 would authorize the appropriation of \$1 million each year over the 1999-2001 period for information on persons indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

H.R. 4660 would prohibit the State Department from issuing defense export licenses to persons convicted of providing material support to terrorists. CBO estimates that this provision would have a negligible budgetary impact because any loss of collections from fees for licenses would be offset by lower spending. (H.R. 3616, as cleared by the Congress on October 1, 1998, would allow the State Department to collect and spend fees for issuing defense export licenses.)

The bill does not contain any intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The estimate was prepared by Sunita D'Monte. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.